

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 13 ,22, 23 and 24 as follows:

13. (Amended Once) Method according to one of claims 2 or 3, characterized in that it further comprises the step of submitting the granules leaving the drying chamber (70) to a soaking step in order to equalize the distribution of said substance in liquid phase into each of the plastics granules.

22. (Amended Once) Apparatus (1) according to claim 20, characterized in that said at least one spraying chamber (40) further comprises a shaped insert (13, 19) adapted to define in said chamber respective flowpaths of the granules facing each of said injectors (11, 21).

23. (Amended Once) Apparatus (1) according to claims 18 or 22, characterized in that said flowpaths are defined in respective open channels (14), axially formed in said insert (13), said injector (11) being oriented in such a way as to spray the substance in liquid phase into said channels in countercurrent to the continuous flow of the granules.

24. (Amended Once) Apparatus (1) according to claims 19, 20 or 22, characterized in that said flowpaths are defined in respective closed channels (20), axially formed in said insert (19), said injector (21) being oriented in such a way as to spray the substance in liquid phase into said channels in countercurrent to the continuous flow of the granules.

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202-408-4000